

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

### **Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a stove switch safety cover for use in connection with the controls for stove top burners. The stove switch safety cover has particular utility in connection with locking the control knobs of the stove in an OFF position, thereby denying access to the knobs to any individual not possessing the key to unlock the cover.

### **Description of the Prior Art**

Many accidents that occur in the home involve the stove. Typically, a curious child will play with the stove's control knobs, resulting in an unattended burner, a fire, or injury. If the device is a gas stove, this can lead to severe health and fire risks. The occupants of the house could be overcome by the gas fumes, eventually dying if not discovered in time. Furthermore, the gas in the air is combustible and can be easily ignited by a spark if not detected. A further threat of fire is also present in both gas and electric stoves. Should a pan of food be left on the burner or an item left within close proximity to the burner, the unattended burner could eventually set the food or the item on fire. An additional danger with the stove is that of the child pulling the pan of food from the hot burner and spilling it on himself, resulting in severe burns, especially if water or hot fat is present in the pan. Therefore, a device which could lock the stove into an inoperable position and deny access to individuals not possessing the key to the lock would prevent the aforementioned misfortunes from happening.

The use of stove locking devices is known in the prior art. For example, United States Patent Number 2,834,335 to Antonio Rondello discloses a gas stove safety device that consists of a rod that passes through a hole in each control knob and has a keyed lock on one end to prevent the knobs from being turned. However, the Rondello '335 patent is limited in use to stoves having knobs with holes in the lower section through which the rod may be passed. Control knobs for today's stoves rarely contain such holes and lack a shape that would lend itself to such a modification. Furthermore, the rod of the Rondello '335 device could entice a child to swing on it, which could result in the bending or breaking of the rod and possible damage to the control knobs.